

KHRC Anabolic Steroid Rule—Things You Should Know

When to discontinue the administration of anabolic steroids?

The best answer is ‘right now’. The Governor signed the emergency regulation, the ban of administration of anabolic steroids, on September 5, 2008. Administration of anabolic steroids after that date will be a violation of the rule. A protocol does exist for therapeutic administration of anabolic steroids. This includes reporting of the treatment, a 60 day period if racing ineligibility and mandatory clearance testing before a treated horse may enter to race.

If the ban is in place immediately, what is the purpose of the ‘grace period’?

The grace period of 90 days is an interval during which horsemen will not be penalized when anabolic steroids are detected in a post-race sample—*as long as the anabolic steroid was administered prior to the start of the ban*. The grace period permits horses to continue to race (without fear of being penalized) while previously administered anabolic steroids are metabolized and eliminated from their systems. The 90 day grace period does **NOT** permit the continued administration of anabolic steroids. It should not be interpreted as a steroid-permissive period prior to the implementation of the rule and the associated consequences for its violation.

Explain how the grace period works.

The first 30 days (September 5, 2008 – October 3, 2008) of the ban on anabolic steroids, there will be no testing performed. Days 31-60 (October 4, 2008 – November 3, 2008), testing for anabolic steroids will be performed as part of regular post-race testing. Owners and Trainers of horses testing ‘positive’ for an anabolic steroid during that interval will be notified of the positive test, but there will be no penalty assessed. Days 61-90 (November 4, 2008 – December 3, 2008), a ‘positive’ test for anabolic steroids will initiate an investigation to determine when the anabolic steroid administration occurred. If the administration occurred after September 5, 2008 the imposition of the ban, the positive test (in conjunction with proof of administration) will result in an actionable violation.

Note: A positive test result during the grace period may be considered an aggravating factor for positive post-race anabolic steroid tests that occur after the grace period has ended.

What about claimed horses?

The claimant may, at the time the claim slip is dropped, request that a claimed horse be tested post-race for anabolic steroids. The horse will be directed to the Detention Barn for testing. If the test results are positive for anabolic steroids, the claimant has the option of voiding the claim and returning the horse to its original trainer. For the voided-claim option to exist, the testing must be performed immediately post race and through the KHRC. Private testing will not justify the voiding of a claim. The costs associated with this testing are to be paid by the claimant. The claiming trainer, having requested anabolic steroid testing, is to provide reasonable care and not significantly alter the condition of the horse pending the test results.

Out of state horses to race in Kentucky

The trainers of these horses may 1) submit treatment reports and follow the therapeutic use protocol described above or 2) certify that the horse has not been administered anabolic steroids within the previous 60 days or 3) for horses that have not been in the care and control of the trainer for a full 60 days, the trainer must certify that anabolic steroids have not been administered while the horse was in his care, and that the trainer accepts responsibility should the presence of anabolic steroids be detected in a post race sample from the horse.

For additional questions or clarifications, contact: Dr. Mary Scollay, Equine Medical Director, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission at (859) 246-2040, Ext 243 or mary.scollay@ky.gov.